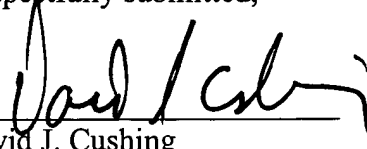


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket Q64043

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28,703

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: April 12, 2001

T06290-7860-062901

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, after the title, insert the heading

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 4, after line 12, insert the heading

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 5, after line 36, insert the heading

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 6, after line 31, insert the heading

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A method according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 2~~, characterized in that said coated metal strip B is post-heated after it is fed over said support roller (1”).

4. (Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, characterized in that said polymer composition P is applied by rolling said composition between an applicator roller (2”) with a deformable surface and said strip B bearing on said support roller (1”).

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket Q64043

5. (Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, characterized in that said polymer composition is applied in the solid state in the form of a film.

6. (Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, characterized in that said polymer composition is applied in the molten state.

9. (Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, characterized in that said polymer composition P is a thermosetting composition and in that, after application, the polymer composition of the coating of the strip B is cured.

10. (Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, characterized in that said polymer composition P is a thermoplastics composition and in that said coated strip B is cooled after application and after the strip B has escaped from contact with said support roller (1”).

12. (Amended) A method according to ~~claim 10 or claim 11~~, wherein the surface of said applicator roller (2”) is cooled directly.

13. (Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~claim 1, characterized in that it further includes a step in which a polymer composition P” is applied to the internal face Bi of the strip.

18. (Amended) A device according to ~~either claim 16 or claim 17~~, characterized in that it includes additional means (6, 8) for post-heating the coated strip B on the feed path of the strip and downstream of said support roller (1”).

19. (Amended) A device according to ~~any one of claims 16 to 18~~claim 16, characterized in that said application means include an applicator roller (2”) with a deformable

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket Q64043

surface bearing indirectly on said support roller (1'') through the intermediary of said strip B so as to form rolling means in conjunction with said roller.

23. (Amended) A device according to ~~any one of claims 16 to 22~~ claim 16, characterized in that said application means include means for extruding said composition P in the molten state.

24. (Amended) A device according to ~~any one of claims 16 to 23~~ claim 16, characterized in that it includes means for cooling the strip on the feed path of the strip and downstream of said support roller (1'').

27. (Amended) A device according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 16 for coating the external face Be of a metal strip B, characterized in that it further includes means for coating the internal face Bi.

30. (Amended) A device according to ~~either claim 28 or claim 29~~, characterized in that it includes a pair of cooling rollers (4, 4'') downstream of said support roller (1'') and the successive rollers (4', 4'') are disposed so that the coated faces Bi and Be of the strip come alternately into direct contact with the rollers (4, 4'').

09807387-062901